

# Mansfield Public Schools

## Board of Education Update

Fred Baruzzi

Superintendent of Schools

Issue #46

April 2012

Information regarding the current status of the Mansfield Public Schools: items, issues, challenges, and opportunities district staff addressed during the month, as well as upcoming district and school events.

### Enrollment

Gr.	GW		SE		VN		MMS		Total
		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*		+/-*	
PK	31	5/4	28	0/3	29	4/4			88
K	39	3/6	47	5/2	47	6/3			133
1	39	9/3	48	2/5	50	7/2			137
2	30	2/2	40	3/2	57	6/3			127
3	43	4/1	45	4/2	41	4/1			129
4	39	7/4	46	2/1	51	2/1			136
PK-4									750
5							146	19/1	146
6							141	10/4	141
7							144	12/5	144
8							152	10/0	152
# Boys	127		140		141		289		
# Girls	94		114		134		294		
Total	221	30/20	254	16/15	275	29/15	583	51/10	1333

\*Entries/Withdrawals

- Home-school year to date total: 4 families with 10 students.

	GW	SE	VN	MMS	District
Immigrant children*	17	20	4	6	47
ELL **	13	20	6	8	47

\*Eligible immigrant children are defined as a) ages 3-21 enrolled full-time in school, b) not born in any state, c) have not been attending 1 or more schools in 1 or more states for more than 3 full academic years.

\*\*English Language Learners

### Connecticut Mastery Test – Fourth Generation Results

#/% of students at/above goal – March 2011

Grade	Math	Writing	Reading	Science
3 – 130	102/84.6	94/72.7	94/72.7	-----
4 – 131	105/80.2	99/75.6	99/75.6	-----
5 – 141	125/88.7	111/78.7	111/78.7	120/85.2
6 – 140	110/78.6	105/75.0	105/75	-----
7 – 142	109/76.8	107/75.5	107/75.5	-----
8 – 145	116/80.0	121/83.7	121/83.7	129/89.0

- Students not reaching goal in one or more areas: (2011-2012 grade)

Gr. 4 – 49/37.7%	Gr. 7 – 53/37.5%
Gr. 5 – 48/36.6%	Gr. 8 – 51/35.7%
Gr. 6 – 45/31.6%	Gr. 9 – 41/28.0%

- Results reviewed by district and building administration along with appropriate teaching and support staff.
- Reviewed preliminary NCLB reports indicated that MMS and the district have not reached Adequate Yearly Progress in Reading and Mathematics for Students with Disabilities and in Reading for Economically Disadvantaged.

### Budget

- Food Service Comparison:

September – April 2011		September – April 2012	
Paid Meals	Total Meals	Paid Meals	Total Meals
66,767	119,275	75,855	127,492

- Pilot of MMS Salad Bar will continue through May, 2012.
- Attended Town Council/MBOE budget meeting.

### Personnel

	Certified	Non-Certified
Retirements	0	0
Resignations	0	2
Requests for Leave	0	0
New Hires	0	0
Reduction in Force	0	0

- Implemented a plan to address a leave by Director of Food Services.
- Implemented AlertNow notification for all staff announcing delayed openings or school closures.
- Facilitated interviews MMS Principal Search Committee.
- Facilitated posting of certified staff positions for 2012-2013.
- Participated in all certified staff search committees.
- Participated with Personnel Committee in UPSEU negotiations.

### District: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

#### Including Instructional Technology Applications

- Continued Study Island software program for all district grade 3 and 4 students to use both at school and at home.
- Facilitated a year four implementation plan for *Bridges in Mathematics*.
- Facilitated the plan for implementing Houghton Mifflin: *Legacy of Literacy*.
- Conducted two Administrative Council meetings.
- Facilitated District Technology Committee meeting.
- Supported the continued development of school data teams.
- Facilitated Math Grant meeting with UCONN and Math Consultant.
- Implemented Digital Art displays at all schools and other public buildings.
- Continued Mathematics Textbook pilot for grade 6-8.
- Developed next steps for district regarding Common Core States Standards (CCSS).
- Continued to review options regarding CCSS transition plan.

### Policies

- Implemented revised MBOE Policies approved at the October 13, 2011 meeting.
- Continued to explore the possibility of MBOE/Region 19 Policies revised concurrently.
- Facilitated posting on district website 2011-2012 MBOE Policy Manual.
- Addressed Mansfield Town Council Personnel Committee request for information.

## Building and Grounds

- Continued to implement an alternative work order system.
- Conducted Facilities Management meeting to address current issues.
- Facilitated revisions to the Mansfield Public Schools Custodial and Maintenance Procedures and Policies Manual.
- Did not receive Safe Routes to School grant.
- Monitored repair and maintenance of school roofs.
- Facilitated use of Vinton back classroom as new town polling place.

Maintenance Work Requests						
	GW	SE	VN	MMS	Total	
<b>Solved</b>	155	195	211	351	912	88%
<b>Pending</b>	5	8	6	8	27	3%
<b>Open</b>	39	11	5	43	98	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Programs

### Study Island Through April 28, 2012

Grade 3				Grade 4			
Math		Reading		Math		Reading	
Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct	Q*	% Correct
34,082	82.2	19,375	70.5	33,697	85.5	28,141	74.5

\*Number of questions attempted on grade level

MMS Open Library/Media Center Night			
	4/4/12	4/11/12	4/25/12
Students	5	6	7
Parents	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>

MMS Open Library/Media Center Night Monthly Average					
	11/11	12/11	1/12	2/12	3/12
Students	12	9	21	19	13
Parents	4	2	6	7	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>

## Energy

- Facilitated school building energy committees.
- Continued to facilitate guidelines for after school building use in an effort to reduce energy consumption.
- Monitored use of energy efficient refrigerators to replace classroom use of small refrigerators.
- Initiated monitoring of gas heat & electric energy charges at MMS due to fuel conversion project.
- Discussed with finance and maintenance department common comprehensive energy management system.
- Implemented CCM Program: Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) under PA 11-80.
- Facilitated Conn Serv energy audit of Southeast School.
- Facilitated SOAR internships from 3 Rivers Comm. College with the enrichment teachers for a school greenhouse design at MMS and a school garden design at Vinton.

## Security

- Continued the implementation of new required crisis prevention drills for all schools with emergency management officials.
- Continued the implementation of Tabletop Emergency Procedures Drill preparation.

## Communication

- Held monthly meeting with Town Manager.
- Conducted monthly meetings with bargaining unit leaders.
- Attended URSA Superintendents' meeting.
- Attended MAC meeting.
- Continued to implement A/C-E to enhance communication between meetings.
- Attended Region 19 sending school superintendents' meeting.
- Met with MAC representatives to discuss potential grant opportunity.
- Addressed FOI requests.

## Professional Development

- Implemented district committee to review district SRBI procedures.
- Supported the continued development of school data teams.
- Implemented Administrator's Professional Development Series on Teacher Evaluation.

## Technology Administrative Applications

- Continued implementation of HealthOffice Software.
- Continued implementation of automated system for recording substitutes.
- Continued conversion to Horizon library system software.
- Supported training and development of PowerSchool software at MMS and Filemaker Pro software.
- Implemented new PowerSchool cafeteria software in all four schools.
- Implemented Pearson Limelight Inform to track student assessment data to inform instruction.
- Continued implementation of AlertNow software program for transportation issues.
- Implemented the posting on district website of a four schools district calendar.
- Developed & implemented plan for district assessments and CMT data to be entered in Pearson database.
- Continued review of revised district and school website.
- Facilitated purchase and use of digital display of student artwork.
- Initiated AlertNow for school delays/closings to parents/guardians.
- Attended IT Management Meeting with Region 19 and Town.
- Investigated school bus route scheduling software.

## Other

- Attended CASCD Spring Conference
- Attended Leading by Example: New Energy Opportunities for Municipalities
- Attended Neag School Evidence-based Intervention Discussion
- Attended EASTCONN Workshop: Recruit/Hire/Retain a Diverse Workforce
- Attended Early Childhood Conference: Together We Will
- Attended CAPSS Workshop: Facebook Me
- Attended Fresh Perspectives on the Superintendency: The Integral Role of Communication
- Attended CAS: What Schools Need to Implement Effective Student Success Plans
- Attended Leading Your Organization From Success to Significance
- Attended CREC: Common Core Standards and the English Language Learner
- Participated in CAPSS/CCJEF Conference Call
- Attended SDE 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Data Conference
- Attended EASTCONN Science and Common Core ELA Standards meeting
- Attended Shipman & Goodwin: Handling Special Education Challenges: Avoiding Due Process and Writing Legally Defensible IEPs
- Attended 2012-2013 UCONN Intern Orientation at MMS.

Additional information will be provided upon request by calling 429.3350 or by emailing [mboesupt@mansfieldct.org](mailto:mboesupt@mansfieldct.org).

# Mansfield Public Schools Monthly Memorable Moments

## Goodwin School

- On Thursday, April 26, approximately 160 parents, grandparents, siblings and friends came to Goodwin's First Grade Author's Night. First graders from both Ms. Mann's and Mrs. Pagoni's class shared books they had written during writer's workshop. The student's stories were bound and beautifully illustrated. Each child had the chance to shine in the Author's Chair and read their book aloud. University of Connecticut Fifth Year Interns who are actively involved in writer's workshop also attended the event. This annual evening celebration of writing has become a much awaited activity for our first graders. Kindergarten authors will share their books during early May.
- On April 12, Goodwin's PTO held its annual Backpack Brigade. After sharing a pizza dinner with their friends and families, students packed over 50 new backpacks with notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, and other school supplies. The supplies were donated by children and by the PTO. Goodwin teachers, donated gently used books from their homes to add to each backpack. The backpacks were delivered to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry. This organization will give the backpacks to needy children at the start of the next school year.

## Southeast School

- Congratulations to Noah Hanka, a fourth grade student at Southeast, who was published in the Connecticut Students Writers statewide magazine. Noah's short story, "A Long Journey for Firewood" was selected from over 1,000 pieces that were submitted this year. The Connecticut Writing Project and those who contributed to make the publication a reality are hosting a recognition night to honor both the published writers and those receiving honorable mentions. The students will receive a certificate of merit and copies of the Connecticut Student Writers magazine on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Jorgensen Auditorium at the University of Connecticut.
- Southeast's third and fourth graders worked diligently during the Connecticut Mastery Testing session in mid-March. Third grade teacher James Hendricks and physical education teacher Betsy Parker created a way for students to celebrate all of their hard work. On Wednesday, March 23 after students completed CMTs, all third and fourth graders participated in Southeast School's first annual *Minute to Win It* game show. All students were given the opportunity to participate in a challenge that came directly from the popular game show on NBC. Blueprints (instructions to each challenge) were displayed and third and fourth graders had a "minute to win it." Each student received a ribbon token for completion of the CMTs and a star token for participating on Southeast's *Minute to Win It*. In addition, if a student completed a challenge successfully, they received a personalized *Southeast Minute to Win It* magnet. A fun time was had by all involved! Special thanks goes to Andrea Lennon for assisting with the development of our challenge equipment; Susan Irvine for assisting with reward distribution, Michelle Kolomyjec for additional support, and Jared Kolomyjec for leading our student pit crew. We also would like to recognize third graders Bruce Hussey and Dylan Corsini and fourth graders Tyler Harakaly, Owen Stacey, and Abby Ziemba for being great members of our pit crew! This is a new Southeast "hit" and we look forward to it returning next March!
- The annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention was held occurred on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 family members came to support our student scientists and inventors and to celebrate their talents and creativity. Each student who participated received a ribbon and a certificate at the end of the evening. Our UConn judges selected three inventors to represent Southeast School at the Connecticut Invention Convention on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at Gampel Pavilion, UCONN. They are: 4<sup>th</sup> grader Anatole Keshwani for inventing the *Cuppy Plate*; 2<sup>nd</sup> grader Davi van den Berg for his *Bug Sucker*; and 1<sup>st</sup> grader Alessandra Leonard for her *Amazing Clothes Picker* invention. This year two new categories were added to the science fair. One was science projects that promote environmental awareness. Each student presenting this specific type of science project received a *Green Scientist* Certificate. The other new category was projects that promote health and well-being. Students with this type of project received a *Health and Wellness* Certificate.

## Vinton continued

- On Friday, April 27, the third grade students from all 3 elementary schools went bowling at Lucky Strike Lanes in Mansfield. This trip is the culminating activity to our Physical Education bowling unit. This field trip is an opportunity for our third graders to meet their future MMS classmates. We do a similar trip next year in the fourth grade when we take them ice skating. Some friends and families joined us for a whole morning of fun.
- The Vinton PTA held its annual No TV Week during the week of April 9<sup>th</sup> coinciding with the Spring Book Fair. Each evening a different event was held for students and their families, such as Bingo, craft night, kickball, and an interactive karate demonstration hosted by Villari's Martial Arts Studios. Vinton families enjoyed participating in the events, and getting out from in front of the screen for a week!
- The Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge made a presentation about energy conservation to Vinton staff and students at the April Celebrate Vinton Assembly. Students learned about "Energy Vampires" that are energy-sucking electronic appliances that are constantly using energy, even when they are turned off, such as coffee makers, TV's, video game consoles, and computers. Families can find these "Energy Vampires" by turning off everything in their homes and checking the electric meter – if it's running, there are "Vampires!" The Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge teaches families to do things like unplug unused electronics and use a smart power strip in order to conserve energy and save money.

## Mansfield Middle School

- Twenty MMS students spent Saturday, April 28 at State History Day competition in Hartford. They were invited based on their strong showing at the regional competition in March. MMS students were recognized at the state level for several awards: 3rd place for a group exhibit: McKenna Dale and Carlie Cassells, *The Boston Tea Party*; 2nd Place for individual performance: Laura Blum, *The Grape Boycott*; 2nd place Group Documentary: Darius & Vida Javidi, *The Iranian Revolution*; 3rd place group website: Jon Huang, Owen Elphick, Geoffrey Russell, *Edwin Hubble*; 2nd place group website: Saskia Martinez, Joyce Zhou, Alice Hu, *Prohibition & Women's Suffrage* 1st place individual website: Andrew Thompson, *The Early Byzantine Empire*. Of the above winners, all 1st and 2nd place students will participate in the National Competition at the University of Maryland from June 10-14.
- MMS Enrichment teacher Kelly Brouse coordinates the school's efforts with social studies teachers in Grades 6, 7 and 8. At the state awards, Mrs. Brouse was recognized as the Connecticut nominee (junior level) for the *Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award*, which recognizes outstanding National History Day teachers.
- Students from Mansfield Middle School participated in the VEX Robotics World Championship in Anaheim, California during April vacation. The VEX Robotics World Championship is a gathering of top robotics teams from around the world to celebrate their accomplishments and compete with/against the best of the best. The 2012 VEX Robotics World Championship included top teams from over 200 VEX Robotics Competition tournaments that happened in cities around the world from May 2011 to March 2012. You can see the team's blog entries via the MMS website or at this link: <http://whenrobotsfly.blogspot.com/>.
- During April vacation MMS sixth grade social studies teacher Melissa Batulevitz became the seventh MMS staff member since 2004 to visit our partner school, The Middle School at TaiShan Academy, in Tai'an City, Shandong Province, China. Mrs. Batulevitz toured Beijing and Jinan with a delegation of Connecticut educators, and she spent several days as our partner school's guest. She observed classes, taught demonstration lessons, and met with students, teachers and administrators.
- A group of 17 students, a teacher and an administrator from our partner school in China arrived at MMS just after April vacation for a six-day homestay. The students lived with a host student's family, attended classes at MMS with school hosts, went on a field trip to Mystic Aquarium, and spent an American weekend with their host family. Many thanks to the participating host families who made this exchange possible. These students are the third group of students from Tai'an to visit MMS. Two groups of MMS students have enjoyed homestays in Tai'an City in 2008 and 2011.

## Upcoming Events in May:

*Please join us at any/all of these events*

GW	SE	VN
Science Fair 5/3/12 6:30pm	Special Persons' Week 5/1-4/12	Kindergarten Parent Orientation 5/3/12 7:00pm
Community Playground Design Day 5/4/12	Community Playground Design Day 5/4/12	Community Playground Design Day 5/4/12
Gr. 1/2 Day Musical Performance 5/8/12 2:25pm	Blue Slope Farm K. Field Trip 5/17/12	Bob Bloom Drumming Assembly 5/7/12
Gr. 1/2 Musical Performance 5/10/12 7:00pm	Tag Sale 5/19/12	PTA Meeting 5/7/12 7:00pm
PTO Meeting 5/16/12 6:30pm	Hyde Cultural Center Gr. 1/2 FT 5/22/12	Belding Wildlife Mgmt. Area Gr. 3 FT
Arts Day 5/18/12	Sturbridge Village Gr. 2 FT 5/25/12	Celebrate Vinton Assembly 5/17/12 10:15pm
Goodwin Fun Fair 5/19/12 10:00am	PTO Book Fair 5/29-31/12	Young Author's Day 5/29/12
Goodwin Town Meeting 5/22/12 2:30pm		Sturbridge Village Gr. 2 FT 5/31/12
Volunteer Tea 5/22/12 2:10pm		
MMS		
Spring Band Concert 5/9/12 7:00pm	Spring Band Concert Assembly 5/10/12 9:00am	Opera New England Teaser Gr. 5 5/10/12 2:00pm
Getting to Know You Evening Gr. 4 5/10/12 6:30pm	Spring Orchestra Concert 5/16/12 7:00pm	Spring Orchestra & Choral Assembly 5/17/12 1:00pm
Spring Choral Concert 5/23/12 7:00pm	MMS Bands in Memorial Day Parade 5/28/12 9:00am	Ellis Island Simulation (Gr. 8) 5/30/12 AM
Beginning Band Concert 5/31/12 3:30pm	Parent Tea Gr. 4 5/31/12 3:30pm	
District		
Board of Education Meeting 5/10/12 Council Chambers 7:30pm	Board of Education Retreat 5/24/12 5:30pm Bishop Center Room 146	Memorial Day – No School 5/28/12

### Reminders:

- ***The annual Mansfield Town Meeting for Budget Consideration is Tuesday, May 8th, 2012 in the auditorium of Mansfield Middle School at 7:00pm.***
- ***The annual MBOE Retirement Party is June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm in UConn's Rome Ballroom.***

### Link to District Four Schools Calendar of Events:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/13915/11152/13573/14378/default.aspx>

or:

Go to <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/mboe> (Board of Ed. website)

1) In the middle at the bottom is a link called "Calendar of Events"

2) Click on that link and it will bring you to the calendar.